

REMARKS

Amendments

Figures 1 and 2 are amended to show the center of gravity of the heat exchange block, i.e., reference number 17. The specification is amended to provide express reference to reference number 17. The Abstract is amended to delete the term “means” in accordance with the Examiner’s request.

Claim 1 is amended so that the initial reference to “securing means” comes after the improvement clause, rather than in the Jepson preamble. In addition, claim 1 is amended to delete “the heat exchanger block (1) is arranged movably in the insulating vessel” as being superfluous. Movement of the heat exchanger block is already recited in the description of the securing means within claim 1. Similar changes are made to independent claims 9, 12, 14 and 18.

Claim 5 is amended to recite that the pipes connected to the heat exchange block comprise the feed and/or discharge lines recited in that claim. Finally, claims 19 and 23 are amended to correct obvious typographical errors.

Objection to the Drawings

As noted above, attached herewith are Replacement Drawings showing Figures 1 and 2 in which the center of gravity 17 is explicitly shown. However, applicants respectfully submit that this change to the drawings is unnecessary. The center of gravity is an inherent feature of any object having mass. One of ordinary skill in the art would readily recognize that the heat exchange block illustrated in the figures would have a center of gravity. Since one of ordinary skill in the art can readily recognize that the object inherently has a center of gravity, it is unnecessary to illustrate this concept.

Objection to the Abstract

Pursuant, to the Examiner’s request, the Abstract is amended to delete the term “means”. Withdraw of the objection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph

Claims 1-23 are rejected as allegedly being anticipated in view of "admitted prior art." This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, claims 1, 9, 14 and 18 are amended to delete the phrase "arranged moveably" in the insulting vessel." In addition, claim 5 is amended to describe the relationship between pipes recited in claims 1 and the feed and/or discharge lines recited in claim 5. Finally, claims 19 and 23 are amended to recite "said third support plate" where necessary.

In view of the above remarks, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 USC §102 and §103

Claims 1-3, 6-10, 12-14, 17-20, and 23 are rejected as allegedly being anticipated in view of "admitted prior art." Claims 4, 5, 11, 15, 16, 21, and 22 are rejected as allegedly being obvious in view of "admitted prior art." These rejections are respectfully traversed.

All of the claims are rejected as either being anticipated or obvious in view of admitted prior art. This assertion is based on the recitation of "securing means" in the Jepson preamble of claim 1. The Examiner argues that the securing means recited in the Jepson preamble would be interpreted as the applicants' inventive securing means. Applicants respectfully disagree. One of ordinary in the art upon reading the claim would clearly recognize from the improvement clause of the Jepson claim that the improvement is a particular type of securing means, not the securing means used in the prior art. Prior art methods of securing heat exchange blocks are described in applicants' specification. See, for example, page 1, line 25 - line 26.

In any event, as noted above, applicants have deleted the reference to securing means in the Jepson preamble. Thus, the only securing means recited in the claims is the securing means in accordance with applicants' invention.

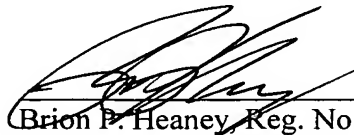
In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by any alleged "admitted prior art". Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC § 102 and § 103 is respectfully requested.

LINDE-581

In view of the above, allowance of the instant application is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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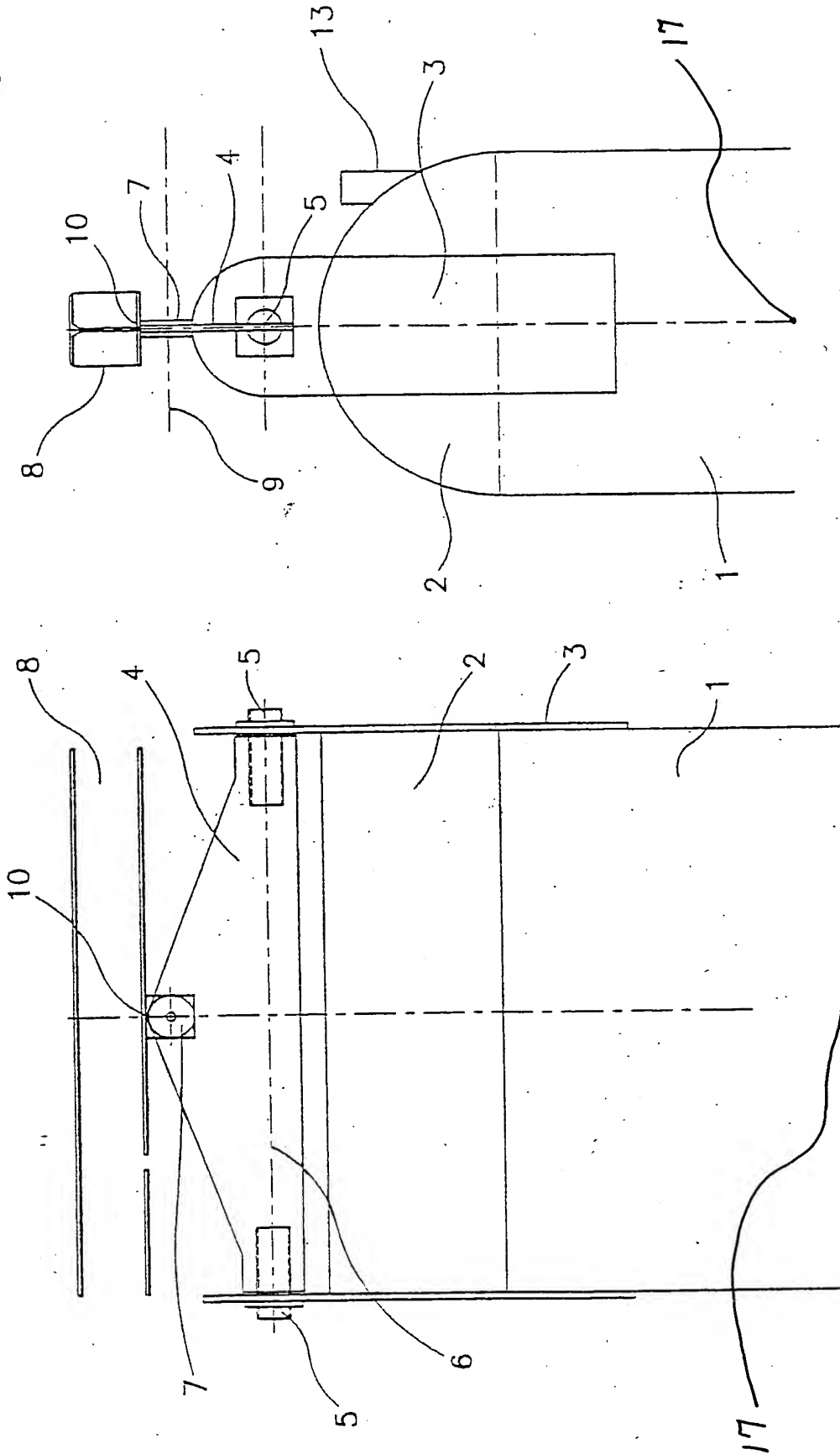


FIG. 2

FIG. 1